

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Present: Stephen K. Hess, Chair
 Ernest A. Heller, Vice-Chair
 M. Shane Canfield, Commission Member
 Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Commission Member
 Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Commission Member
 James Stanker, Alternate Commission Member
 Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Deidre R. Davidson, Commission Member
 Deborah L. Lundahl, Commission Member

The Frederick County Ethics Commission meeting started at 7:00 p.m. on July 10, 2019, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Introduction of new members – Dr. Johnson-Winegar and Mr. Stanker attended their first Ethics Commission meeting. They introduced themselves to the other members and provided information about their backgrounds.

Approval of the minutes – The draft minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting were emailed to the members before the meeting.

MOTION: Rev. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Heller seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Mr. Hess indicated that he was willing to serve another term as the Commission's Chair, but would defer to Mr. Heller if he was interested in becoming the Chair. Mr. Heller stated that he would support the reelection of Mr. Hess.

MOTION: Rev. Jones made a motion to nominate Mr. Hess for Chair and Mr. Heller as Vice-Chair. Dr. Johnson-Winegar seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Ethics Nominating Committee – Mr. Heller, the Ethics Commission's representative on the Ethics Nominating Committee, stated that another Commission member needed to be appointed to serve on the Committee, as he may be applying for reappointment when his term expires in June 2020. Rev. Jones indicated that he was willing to become a member of the Nominating Committee. The members agreed to his appointment by acclamation.

Financial disclosure statement review – Ms. Thall distributed the financial disclosure statements filed by County officials, County employees and members of designated County boards and commissions for calendar year 2018. The members discussed the nature of the Ethics Commission’s review and the purpose for the review. Mr. Hess asked that the members complete their reviews before the Commission’s October meeting.

Inquiry regarding additional questions – Mr. Hess asked Dr. Johnson-Winegar and Mr. Stanker whether they had any questions that the other members could answer. There were no additional questions at this time.

Discussion of public education on the Ethics Law – Mr. Heller noted that under the Ethics Law, one of the Commission’s duties is to conduct a public information program regarding the purposes and application of the Ethics Law. Mr. Heller questioned whether the Commission should be doing more in this area. Mr. Hess mentioned the brochure that the Commission created and suggested making the brochure more available to the public. Possible locations for the brochure were in County buildings, County libraries and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hess asked Ms. Thall to provide a progress report at the Commission’s next meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Heller made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Canfield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney